

Message Text

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63

ACTION AID-20

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AFDROUGHT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: FRENCH AID

REF: OUAGADOUGOU 2267 (NOTAL)

1. FAC LIVESTOCK CHIEF ROBINET HAS GIVEN US INFORMAL SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL DECISIONS MADE DURING PAST 10 DAYS BY FAC "MISSION LOURDE." EMPHASIS FOR FRENCH MEDIUM AND ONG-TERM AID IN UPPER VOLTA WILL BE IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CENTERED AROUND YET-TO-BE-CREATED VOLTA RIVER VALLEY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND INCIPIENT REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (ORD) FOR SAHEL ZONE OF UPPER VOLTA.

2. ADDITIONAL PROJECTS TENTATIVELY AGREED INCLUDE FINANCING CONSTRUCTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE FOR EXPANDED FORESTRY SCHOOL AT DINDERASSO 10 MILES WEST OF BOBO DIOULASSO AND FINANCING ESTABLISHMENT OF LIVESTOCK STATION AS KOUDOUGOU (SIMILAR TO ONE FINANCED BY FRENCH AT DJIBO).

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3. CREATION OF VOLTA RIVER VALLEY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY IS ON AGENDA FOR VOLTAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MISSION SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY. FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE, AUTHORITY WILL COVER ONLY RED AND WHITE VOLTA VALLEYS, NOT BLACKV VOLTA. AUDIBERT HAS MADE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS AUTHORITY A PRECONDITION FOR EXPANDED FAC EFFORT IN VOLTA VALLEY REGION. DEVELOPMENT INPUTS TO AUTHORITY WILL OF COURSE BE CONTINGENT ON SUCCESSFUL ERADICATION AND CONTROL OF RIVER BLINDNESS IN POTENTIALLY EXTREMELY PRODUCTIVE AREA SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST OF OUAGADOUGOU.

4. FAC IS SEEKING SEVERAL FRENCH EXPERTS IN AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK TO BE POSTED OUAGADOUGOU FOR PERHAPS ONE YEAR TO MASTER PLAN FOR SAHEL ORD IN COLLABORATION WITH VOLTAN OFFICIALS. MAJOR ELEMENTS IN CURRENT VOLTAN AND FAC PROSPECTUS FOR THIS ORD ARE UTILIZATION OF MARKOYE AS FOCUS FOR LIVESTOCK EFFORT IN REGION AND DETAILED AERIAL SURVEY TO PERMIT AGROSTOLOGICAL MAPPING OF ENTIRE ORD PLUS PORTIONS OF YATENGA ORD TO THE WEST AND FADA N'GOUEA ORD TO SOUTHEAST. SURVEY AND MAPPING ALONE ESTIMATED COST SOME DOLS 500,000 AND NOT COMPLETED UNTIL MID OR LATE 1976. AFTER PLAN DRAFTED, FAC WILL CONSIDER FINANCING INFRASTRUCTURE. IN INTERIM FAC WILL GO AHEAD WITH FINANCING EXPANSION OF FORAGE CHRISTINE WATERING POINT AS INREPORTED REFTEL.

5. ROBINET SAID FAC KEENLY INTERESTED IN POSSIBILITY RENEWED USAID INPUT TO MARKOYE, PERHAPS WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF SUBSTANTIAL US ASSISTANCE TO SAHEL ORD. HE SAYS MARKOYE SHOULD BE REVITALIZED AS ANIMAL BREEDING CENTER AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR LIVESTOCK EXTENSION AGENTS. MEANWHILE, HE WELCOMES SHORT TERM MARKOY ASSISTANCE INPUTS TAHT HE INDICATED WERE UNDER ACTIVE DISCUSSION BY USADI. HE REMAINS CONVINCED THAT MUCH OF GOUV REQUEST TO FEI TEAM FOR MARKOY ASSISTANCE IS HIGHLY QUESTIONABLE. HE REITERATED THE IMPORTANCE OF MORE CAREFUL ATTENTION TO RATION OF ANIMALS TO PASTURE AFD AGRED WITH DR. MORRIS' BELIEF THAT INTRODUCTION OF THE ZEBU GOBRA FROM SENEGAL WOULD BE UNWISE. HE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THOUGHT NIGER'S UNWILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE TO EXPORT THE AZAWAK COULD BE READILY OVERCOME IN THIS INSTANCE SHOULD VOLTAN AUTHORITIES MAKE REQUEST TO GON AT HIGHEST LEVEL. HE SHARED DR. MORRIS' CONCERN REGARDING INADEQUATE FIRE PROTECTION AT RANCH.

6. COMMENT: ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION FOR THE SAHEL ZONE IS LONG OVERDUE, AND FAC

DECISION TO ADVISE AND FINANCE IS HIGHLY WELCOME. FAC
CLEARLY INTERESTED IN INCORPORATING US ASSISTANCE, AND
WE BELIEVE THIS IS ONE OF PRIME PROSPECTS FOR OUR
MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM AID EFFORT. INCORPORATION OF
FRENCH AID IN US-INITIATED MARKOY CENTER HAS ADDITIONAL
OBVIOUS ATTRACTIONS FOR US. URGE APPROPRIATE BUDGETARY
PROVISION BE MADE IN AID'S FORWARD PLANNING TO PERMIT
SUBSTANTIAL RESOURCE COMMITMENT TO SAHEL ORD AT
APPROPRIATE TIME. ROBINET ESTIMATES AT LEAST A
YEAR NECESSARY BEFORE DETAILS OF ORGANIZATION AND
MAGNITUDE ON REQUESTED DONOR ASSISTANCE CAN BE
DEVELOPED.
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